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an intermediate layer consisting essentially of a polymer system of a cycloaliphatic polyester and optionally one or more materials selected from the group consisting of TiO₂, dyes, pigments and special effects additives; and
a polymeric substrate, wherein the intermediate layer is disposed between and in intimate contact with the upper layer and the polymeric substrate.

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed February 4, 2003 for the above-captioned application. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 2-3 and 5-6 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The claims have been amended in view of the Examiner's remarks, and this rejection is believed to be overcome. With respect to the Examiner's comment about the phrase "and containing an oxygen, sulfur or nitrogen atom", the comma preceding this phrase has been deleted to make it clear that it relates to and characterizes the previously mentioned aromatic heterocyclic group by identifying the heteroatom which is present in combination with 5 or 6 carbon atoms.

Claim 1 has been cancelled and replaced with claim 23 to more clearly define the invention. As stated in the amended claim, the composition includes three defined layers in a defined spatial relationship. As shown Table 2 of the specification, this combination, which is exemplified by formulation 1 has substantially superior resistance to weathering when compared to other combinations of similar materials. (Formulations 2-7).

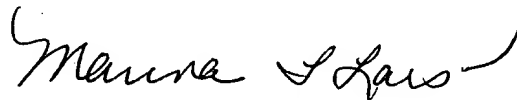
The Examiner rejected claims 1-22 as obvious over the combination of MacGregor and Susi. Applicants submit that independent claim 23 is not obvious over this combination of references, and that therefore all of the pending claims are allowable. MacGregor discloses a multilayer structure having a substrate which may be polycarbonate, and an upper layer which may be a cycloaliphatic polyester such as PCCD and which may contain a triazine UV stabilizers and a hindered amine light stabilizer (HALS). MacGregor mentions the possibility of an intermediate layer, but does not show the presence of such a layer to be of any consequence, and does not disclose the significance of an intermediate layer as presently claimed to the weathering

performance of the present invention. In this regard, the Examiner should compare the weathering results for formulation 1 in accordance with the invention with those for formulation 2, having the same intermediate layer but a different upper layer; and with formulation 3 having the same upper layer but a different intermediate layer; and with formulation 6 having the same upper layer and no intermediate layer.

The Susi reference has been cited by the Examiner as showing specific combinations of HALS and triazine and piperidine UV absorbers. Such a teaching is not sufficient to overcome the deficiencies in the primary reference with respect to claim 23. Susi does not teach an intermediate layer. Furthermore, because the multilayer structure in Susi is a polymer layer on a metal base, there is no suggestion of the type of interaction between layer compositions which is observed in the case of the present invention. Thus, Applicants submit that claims 2-18 and 20-23, as now pending are not obvious over the cited combination of references.

For these reasons, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marina T. Larson", written in black ink.

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